

In the Event of a Spill or Leak

If anyone is hurt, or if the spill is large and you cannot safely clean it up, call 911 immediately!

In the event of a spill or leak:

- **Keep children and pets away.**
- **Extinguish Flames.** Extinguish any open flame or heat source.
- **Keep the area well ventilated** (open windows).
- **Read the product label** for information on how to handle a spill.
- **Put on the recommended safety gear.** You will probably need to wear gloves, goggles, and long sleeves and pants.
- **Stop the product from spreading** by covering the spill with absorbent material (kitty litter, sand, disposable diapers, soil). Don't vacuum up a spill or try to wash it down any drain.
- **Sweep and scoop the absorbent into a container** with a lid or into a strong plastic bag. Clean the area with soap and rags (put used rags into the container as well). Be careful not to wash hazardous materials into the street gutter.
- **Label the container** with the product name, chemical name, and hazard category (flammable, corrosive, etc.) All this information should be available on the product's label.
- **Dispose of the container as hazardous waste** at the county's Household Hazardous Waste Center. See the Disposal section (Page 15).

Mercury and Fluorescent Bulbs

Cleaning up liquid mercury or a broken fluorescent bulb requires special methods that, if not followed, could contaminate your home or endanger your family—**Call 911 for assistance.**

Prepare yourself in advance for spills and splashes:

- Have cleanup supplies nearby, and know how to use them.
- Call for help sooner rather than later.
- Any towels, rags, or sponges that you use to cleanup a hazardous product become contaminated and must themselves be disposed of as hazardous wastes.

Accidental Exposure

For an immediate medical emergency call 911.

Call the Poison Center at (800) 222-1222. *Have the container with you when you make the call to help in the identification.* The first aid remedies on product labels can be incorrect especially on older products so be sure to call the Poison Center for advice. The following are general first aid recommendations. If a doctor or the Poison Center recommend other actions, follow their advice.

EYES

- Rinse eye immediately and remove contact lenses, if any.
- Flush eye with water for 15 minutes.
- Water should be lukewarm and should run across the contaminated eye.
- Blink contaminated eye while flushing and do not force the eyelid open.

SWALLOWED

- Call 911 immediately if victim has difficulty breathing or is unconscious.
- Call the Poison Center immediately or a doctor for instructions.
- If substance swallowed is a medication **do not** take anything by mouth unless instructed by a medical professional.
- Keep Syrup of Ipecac on hand, and use if a doctor or the Poison Center advises.

INHALED

- Immediately move to fresh air, open doors and windows.
- Call Poison Center or emergency 911 if needed.

SKIN

- Remove contaminated clothing and flood the skin with water for 10 minutes. Then wash skin gently with soap and water and rinse.
- Separate contaminated clothing from other laundry before washing.

Think about what you'd do in the event of an accident before you use a hazardous product!